Compensation to Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims

1504. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of action so far taken by Government towards the payment of compensation to the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy and for their rehabiliation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): The protracted and complex litigation in connection with the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster has concluded with the orders of the Supreme Court directing Union Carbine Corpn. and Union Carbide India Limited to pay a total sum of U.S. $470 million in full settlement of all claims. The amount has since been deposited with the Supreme Court. A few Special Leave Petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court of India challenging the validity of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985. These petitions have been heard by a Special Bench of the Supreme Court constituted for this purpose and the judgement is reserved. The matter is *sub-judice*.

As regards rehabilitation, the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has set up several worksheds to provide training and employment to the needy victims. Financial assistance is also provided by State Government under the Special Training and Employment Programme for Urban Poor (STEPUP). Long Term Action Plan for rehabilitation of the victims hes also been approved.

Prices of combiflame

1505. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

DR G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th April, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the producers of Combiflame were not exempt from price control when the price of this product was fixed on the 5th November, 1986;

(b) if so; on what basis the Company charged over rupees four per strip extra; and

(c) whether it is a fact that violation of provisions of DPCO has been established and overcharging has been found and if so, what action has been taken against the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) to (c) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Wrong exclusion of drugs from price control

1506. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a vast difference between the exclusion parameters and the drugs actually included in the DPCO; 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are a number of wrong inclusions and exclusions of drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of representations have been received on wrong exclusion of drugs from price control;

(d) what are the reasons that representations from Members of Parliament are not being considered; and

(e) what steps have been taken to rectify the errors and ommissions and by when it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) to (e) Some representations received in this regard were sent to the Kelkar Committee for their consideration. Government has already taken decisions on all major recommendations contained in the Supplementary Report of the Kelkar Committee.